

5X-4682  
29 Jul 65

Re: STUPAK, Vasyl Jakovlovich

Date: 29 July 1965 in Caracas

Source: Accessway/57

*Handwritten notes:*  
- copy of mail clipping from Oct 65  
- from Oct 65  
- 1965  
- changed address  
- 1965  
- USSR

1. STUPAK, Vasyl Jakovlovich: Nationality Ukrainian, <sup>DPOB:</sup> born in SMITOMIR 1919,

presently lives in Kiev, USSR vyl. SVERELOVA, dom 23/ kvart. 15. Married, has one daughter age 16 who presently attends high school in Kiev. ( Russian School)

5'8", 140 lbs. slim built, balding brown hair, long face not too full. Subject is

occ: a repair man with the <sup>for 17 years</sup> company and as such does general repair work; repairs shoes, fixes scenery, and brings out props on stage during certain dances. Subject is quite friendly, likes to talk about political situation in Ukraine at the present. On this topic is resigned to his fate, saying that Ukraine has little chance for self-rule at the present. Subject served in the army during the war, once worked as a chauffeur and was imprisoned for hitting a woman with a car. ( Was in a prison near Moscow) Subject was familiar with source from New York 1963, and recognized source in Caraca

2. Meeting took place in the loby of the hotel El Conde where subject was approach and greeted by source. Subject recognized him and accepted his offer to go for a drink to the bar. Source asked about family matters, and how his daughter is doing in school. Subject was worried that his daughter does not want to study, and prefers to have a good time. Subject asked about sources' family and their life, remembering some of the things that source talked about in New York in 1963.

3. STATUS OF UKRAINE:

Source asked the reason that subject's daughter attends a Russian language school and not a Ukrainian, this seemed strange to source because even in the U.S. he as a Ukrainian attended a Ukrainian school. Subject was bitter on this topic and went into a discussion on Ukrainess rights as a nation. First he said, everything in Ukraine is decided by Moscow, Moscow decides about the economy of the country, all planning and finances are handled by Moscow. Source interrupted and said that Ukraine is in reality a colony of Moscow. Subject seemed to like this phrase and agreed with it, <sup>repeating</sup> ~~repeating~~ it a few times. Source went on to ask in a naive manner " but Ukraine has it's own constitution". Subject laughed and said, "yes it does, and the constitution states that we are a soviergn nation, but in reality we are not, the Ukrainian government in Kiev is a puppet government" adding bitterly, " even the smallest detail is handled and decided by Moscow". Giving an example that the Kiev ensamble cannot make a move on it's own, and is presently waiting for a telegram from Moscow, not Kiev to decide where they will go next.

4. OUN and UPA:

AN Subject attributed the failure of the OUN and UPA in Western Ukraine to the lack  
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of support from Eastern Ukraine. The tradition of nationalism in Western Ukraine led to the rise of the OUN and UPA, the people there were better informed and had a feeling of national identity. Subject elaborated by saying that most of the people now were better informed about the actions of the OUN and UPA, and did not believe the official party line that they were bandits. When asked if there was a chance for the rehabilitation of the the OUN and UPA as was done by Poland for the AK ( armia krayova), subject doubted this because all power is in the hands of Moscow at the present, and this does not go along with its politics in relation to Ukraine.

#### 5. RESISTENSE AT PRESENT:

When asked if there was any resistance to the regime at present, subject did not believe that such was possible. This he blamed on lack of proper leadership and that the will of the people was broken by Stalin in the 1930's with the forced starvation and the purges. Source attacked this by saying that a nation of 44 million poeple should somehow try and defend their ~~position~~<sup>position</sup> in society. Subject agreed, saying that if a strong person could be found, many would rally around him. But many people still remember the terror of the Stalin era, his grandfather for example was arrested by Stalin, and never heard of again. Subject added that even the emmigration is divided into nationalist and progressive, there is no strong front.

#### 6. RUSSIFICATION:

In the eastern Ukraine 70% of the population have lost their national pride and identity, this is caused by the school system primarily. In the schools history of Ukraine is taught under the influence of Russian history. This tends to show Ukraine as being always a part of Russia, going back to the Czar and KHMELNITZKY at Pereslav. There is no mention of Ukraine as a seperate nation, and all subjects are taught on this line. When asked about teaching of Hryshevsky, subject doubted it will be done, for the reason that Hryshevsky is considered "nationalist". On the whole Eastern Ukraine has been under Russian rule for so long that it is almost impossible to find people who still feel that they are Ukrainians , and are proud of it. Source then compared this situation with the small African nations which are just now becoming independent, and could not understand why Ukraine does not show its own national I, like Ghana, or Nigeria. Subject did not answer and changed the topic.

#### 7. RADIO LIBERTY:

People in Ukraine are well informed of what is happening in the emmigration due to the broadcasts of Radio Liberty, many people listen to it in spite of the jamming. But there still is a certain fear that neighbors might find out and tell the police. Subject forbid his daughter to listen for that reason.

8. Source asked subject about the role of the press in thier society. Subject said that censorship is very strong, the press does not tell the people anything of what is going on. All there is, is that the life in the USSR is good, while in reality this is not so. There was only a small mention of the fire in the library in Kiev, and no mention at all of the fact that a few years ago in Kiev, a mountain caved in killing many people. Subject said that in Kiev a few months ago, the newspaper or *KIEVSKA ZORIA* ( Star of Kiev ) has stopped coming out " was liquidated". The reason given was that it was the exact duplicate of *VECHERNIY KIEV* (Evening Kiev) and when after the removal of Khrushchev the party committees were united, there was no use for the paper. The paper was published in Ukrainian, but subject did not know about it's circulation. This topic led to a discussion of censorship in general. The small circulation of books said the subject was due to the censors, if a ~~appears~~ books with new a good ideas appears, it is put out in a small number, while at the same time books with strict adherence to the party line are published massively. These remain in the stands for years on end. Writers stick to the party line in most cases, this is due to fear. Most literature is strict conformity. Subject said that if a poet wanted to write a poem about " My Ukraine" he would be criticized for being a nationalist. Subject said that he had heard about *SENKOVICH* and that the emigration had published some of his works, but that he had not read any of them. When source proposed to give him a copy of same he gladly accepted. Subject told source that he personally had great hope that the young poets would try to bring up the level of the people, that they have an education and have the ability to change the system. The youth of Ukraine in general did not experience the terror of the Stalin period, and were brought up in a freer society. Subject did not know how long this thaw in literature will last.

9. source asked subject what he thought of the removal of Khrushchev, subject in return asked source if source knew how Khrushchev was removed & and who did the most to remove him. Source said that he did not know and subject told the following story: Khrushchev told *SHOLEST* to deliver a certain quota of wheat to Russia, Sholest fulfilled his original quota and was satisfied, then Khrushchev again asked for more wheat, Sholest said that he could not deliver any more, and when Khrushchev left for his vacation, Sholest went

to KOSIGIN and DOBZHINIEV and called a meeting of the central committee, there Cholest gave a speech denouncing Khrushchev's policies in economics, others supported his views and Khrushchev was brought before the central committee. There he was told to sit down and sign a document with his resignation on it. Khrushchev reached for the phone to call the KGB, but the line had been cut ahead of time. Therefore Khrushchev had to sign.  
done  
Subject said that Khrushchev had previously ~~did~~ the same to ZHURKOV, exactly the same tactics with the telephone, and the forced resignation, when subject was telling source this story he seemed amused by it. Source asked where this story came from, subject replied that people talk among themselves about such matters at home, and there is a grapevine of information among the people. Source returned to the matter of Khrushchev and his removal, subject said that Khrushchev's policies with China, and the policies in regard to wheat were the main reasons. The fact that in Ukraine, in the age of the atom, there was no wheat and no bread caused much distress. Source asked where the worst situation was. Subject said that it was the same in the whole country. There were protests, but subject said that they were not organized at all. The worst was that Ukrainian bread was being sent to Cuba and other countries, when there was none at home. People would come to wheat storages and ask for wheat, and would be told that it was not for them, although they were full. Subject seemed bitter on this topic.

10 Source asked subject about religion, and the state of the church in Ukraine at the present. Subject replied that presently there is only one church which serves believers in Kiev at present VOLODYMYRSKIY SOBOR. And that it is crowded every mass on Sunday. Many young people attend mass, baptize their children, marry in the church. Some come just out of curiosity. Source asked what has happened to all the other churches, subject replied that they were turned into museums, or just destroyed, about churches in villages they were closed in the following manner: The government would level a tax against the church which the church paid, then it would constantly level taxes which were larger and larger, until the church could not pay, and thus was forced to close down. Subject did not know about Cardinal SLIPIY and seemed genuinely interested in the story about his release from prison. Subject said that he heard that there was one seminary in ODESSA for priests. He said that he was a believer, but did not go to church.

Source asked about SHEVCHENKO festivities in Ukraine last year; their actual meaning, subject said that ~~by~~ all the festivities were due to pressure put on Moscow by the Ukrainian emigration. He said that the statue of Shevchenko in Moscow was a direct result of the status in Washington. If there was no pressure from the emigration, such festivities would not take place. The fact that the unveiling of the Shevchenko statue in Moscow took place on a working day, in a region beyond the city, said a lot about the way Shevchenko is celebrated.

// When asked about the fire in the library in Kiev, subject said that he had heard about it, and that many very important documents were destroyed, among them: Shevchenko manuscripts, and old books. Subject said that the population of the city was very much grieved by this because Ukrainian culture was being destroyed in front of their eyes. When asked if there was any mention of this in the Kiev papers, subject replied that the press does not mention such matters. Adding that people find out from the emigration sooner of what is going on.

2. Subject thinks that there still are camps with political prisoners in the USSR, but could not name such. He said that there is a prison near Kiev, but it is exclusively for criminals. Subject said that he was in prison for a few months near Moscow, for hitting a woman with a car. But he did not want to elaborate on this theme.

3. Source asked subject if he considered visiting the west with his family in the near future. Subject smiled, and said that in the USSR there was no tourism in the western sense of the word. A worker cannot possibly leave the country, and go on a tour of the west. This is due to the fact that the government does not trust its citizens. They are afraid that some might run away. All tourists that do visit the west are thoroughly controlled by the KGB for their political stability and trustworthiness.

4. At the end of the evening, subject confided to source that he likes to think of what it would be, if Ukraine was a sovereign state. But he added that it is all he is capable of doing at the present. Source asked subject if he could send him some local newspapers from Kiev, and books of young poets, since those materials interested him. Subject agreed and they traded addresses. Subject agreed to meet source in the near future, and they parted.

Re: STUPAK, Vacyl Jakovlovich

Date: 1 August 1965 in Caracas

Source: R.

Source met Subject in the lobby of the El Condé hotel and asked him if he would join him for dinner. Subject agreed and they went to the restaurant of the same hotel. There source asked subject about the state of cinematography in Ukraine. Subject said that there are many good films playing presently in the Ukraine, but very few are sent out of the country. Source asked if the film "SHADOWS OF FORGOTTEN ANCESTORS" is presently playing in Kiev. Subject said that it is not, the reason for this being, he thinks, that the film is too nationalistic in some of its script. When asked if there are any other films of this sort, subject said that he did not know of any. Subject said that the film "DREAM", (Don) is still playing in Kiev, but that he did not have a chance to see it. When asked if he knew of any incidents of Ukrainian being discriminated against in films and theater, he replied that he did not know. Subject again pressed the point that he gets most of his information of what is going on in Ukraine from the emigration, and from radio stations. When questioned in detail about how information is gotten to the people in Ukraine, subject said that there was a good grapevine of information at present in Kiev.

Source decided not to press this subject, and handed subject reprints of SYMONEIKO and about fire in library of Ukraine. Subject took leaflet, and put them in his pocket. Then source told subject that those materials that he handed to him were sent to the emigration by Ukrainians, and that the poems of SYMONEIKO were brought over by Ukrainian communists from Canada. Subject seemed eager to know how poems of SYMONEIKO were sent over. Source said that he did not know too much about this and reported that all he knew, was that Ukrainian communists from Canada brought them over. Source went on to say that Ukrainians in Ukraine, and the emigration should inform each other of what is going on. If in Ukraine the government forbids the publication of such poems as Symonenko's, then Ukrainians should send them to the emigration for publishing. Source added that the Russian emigration does this constantly, and mentioned DR. ZHIVAGO by PASTERNAK. Subject

wanted to know what source wanted. Source said if subject could get his hands on some poems that are being written, but not being published for ideological reasons, he would be very grateful. Also, if source could send ~~any~~ cutouts from local pop press, poems which appear in local and oblast papers, he would be very grateful. Subject said that he could do this, but that there was a strict postal censorship, and he did not know how to get materials out of the country. Source suggested that he could do different things, first he could mail materials out under a different address, and from a different part of the city. Secondly, he does not have to mail anything, but when he goes on another tour with the company, to bring materials along with him, and in the country he visits he will be met by one of source's friends who will give him the following greeting: "I want to say hello to you from Homan with the beard". This source said will mean that the person can be trusted and subject can speak freely with him. Subject agreed to do both, he said that he will send cutouts from local press, and meet source's friend. Source asked about presence of KGB inside the ranks of the company. Subject replied that the dancers fear GODDESS the most, he added that it is better to go to the director and tell him what the dancers talk about among themselves. When questioned about the role of the personnel from the ministry of culture, subject did not know of their roles.

After dinner subject told the following joke: Once Khrushchev was walking down the street leading a goat, when Mikoyan saw them he said "there are you leading that pig" Khrushchev replied, "are you blind, can't you see that this is a goat" Mikoyan looked at him and said, "do you think that I was talking to you".

Source asked if the nationality policy in the USSR will improve with the new government and what changes could be expected. Subject said that he expects the policy to improve and that the status of the republics will rise. But he added, in the USSR what is being said, and what is being done, are two different things. Subject said that originally according to Lenin, Ukraine had the right to be an independent nation, presently this is not the case. Subject said that if there is continued pressure for improvement in the arts, and literature, maybe some rights may be granted in the nationality problem. Subject then went on to say, that he cannot judge yet, but that time will tell. With this they

parted, and subject promised to send information, and meet other friends of source in other countries.